

oxygenated hemoglobin or oxygenated erythrocytes, classified in class 530, subclass 385.

Group IV: Claims 7-8, drawn to method of producing S-nitrosohemoglobin using deoxygenated hemoglobin or oxygenated erythrocytes, classified in class 514, subclass 665.

Group V: Claims 9-10, drawn to method of delivering NO to tissue by administering phosphate and hemoglobin, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group VI: Claim 11, drawn to a method of trapping NO as iron nitrosyl-hemoglobin, by administering hemoglobin, phosphate and borate, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group VII: Claims 12-14, drawn to method for effective NO delivery in a mammal by administering hemoglobin in a physiologically compatible buffer, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group VIII: Claim 15, drawn to method for treating sickle cell disease using hemoglobin, phosphate and NO gas inhalation, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group IX: Claims 16 and 29, drawn to a method of treating sickle cell disease using inhaled oxygen, inhaled NO and hemoglobin, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group XII: Claims 19-20, drawn to a method of inhibiting NO release by using AE1 anion transport function inhibitor, classified in class 514, subclass 724+.

Group XIII: Claim 21, drawn to method of scavenging NO and free radicals in a mammal using AE1 anion transport function inhibitor, classified in class 514, subclass 724+.

Group XIV: Claim 22, drawn to method of treating an inflammatory condition using AE1 anion transport function inhibitor, classified in class 514, subclass 724+.

Group XV: Claim 23, drawn to method of preserving red blood cells by dissolving NO gas to the composition, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group XVI: Claims 24-25, drawn to method of decreasing the release of NO using an

inhibitor for carbonic anhydrase II activity, classified in class 514, subclass 601+.

Group XVII: Claim 26, drawn to method of treating medical disorder mediated by NO by administering SNO-hemoglobin, classified in class 514, subclass 2+.

Group XVIII: Claim 27, drawn to method of restoring red blood cells in a mammal by administering red blood cells which having been treated with NO gas, classified in class 424, subclass 93.73.

Applicants respectfully note that claims 7 and 8 (Group IV) are drawn to a method of producing S-nitrosohemoglobin using deoxygenated erythrocytes, not deoxygenated hemoglobin or oxygenated erythrocytes.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, Group III (claims 4-6) for further prosecution. However, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. Applicants maintain that the restriction requirement is improper because it has not been demonstrated that the claims as grouped represent independent and distinct inventions as required under 35 U.S.C 121. M.P.E.P. 808.01 defines "independent inventions" as those having no connection in design, operation or effect.

Applicants also maintain that the restriction requirement is improper because the Examiner did not demonstrate that the search of the separate claims presents an undue burden on the Examiner. Because the Examiner has not demonstrated the "various" classifications under which these claims allegedly fall, Applicants respectfully maintain that it has not been established that a search for methods of producing a composition comprising intraerythrocytic S-nitrosohemoglobin or NO would not retrieve references pertinent to both groups of claims. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants maintain that the search of art for any of the groups of claims would necessarily cover art for all of the various groups of claims.

Moreover, Applicants maintain in particular that the claims of Group IV should be